

# Merton Council

## Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel



Date: Wednesday 5 September 2012  
Time: 7.15 p.m.  
Venue: Committee Rooms B, C and D  
Merton Civic Centre, London Road,  
Morden SM4 5DX

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### AGENDA

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**This is a public meeting – members of the public are very welcome to attend.  
The meeting room will be open to members of the public from 7.00 p.m.**

For more information about the work of this and other overview and scrutiny panels, please contact, Stella Akintan, Scrutiny Officer, on 020 8545 3390 or e-mail [stella.akintan@merton.gov.uk](mailto:stella.akintan@merton.gov.uk). Alternatively, visit [www.merton.gov.uk/scrutiny](http://www.merton.gov.uk/scrutiny)

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## Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel Membership

### Full Members:

Councillor Suzanne Evans (Chairman)  
Councillor Peter McCabe (Vice Chair)  
Councillor Margaret Brierly  
Councillor Brenda Fraser  
Councillor Maurice Groves  
Councillor Logie Lohendran  
Councillor Dennis Pearce  
Councillor Greg Udeh

### Substitute Members:

Councillor Laxmi Attawar  
Councillor Janice Howard  
Councillor Linda Taylor  
Councillor Sam Thomas  
Co-opted Representatives  
Myrtle Agutter  
Laura Johnson  
Sheila Knight  
Barbara Price  
Saleem Sheikh

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### *What is Overview and Scrutiny?*

Overview and Scrutiny describes the way Merton's scrutiny councillors hold the Council's Executive (the Cabinet) to account to make sure that they take the right decisions for the Borough. Scrutiny panels also carry out reviews of Council services or issues to identify ways the Council can improve or develop new policy to meet the needs of local people. From May 2008, the Overview & Scrutiny Commission and Panels have been restructured and the Panels renamed to reflect the Local Area Agreement strategic themes.

Scrutiny's work falls into four broad areas:

- ⇒ **Call-in:** If three (non-executive) councillors feel that a decision made by the Cabinet is inappropriate they can 'call the decision in' after it has been made to prevent the decision taking immediate effect. They can then interview the Cabinet Member or Council Officers and make recommendations to the decision-maker suggesting improvements.
- ⇒ **Policy Reviews:** The panels carry out detailed, evidence-based assessments of Council services or issues that affect the lives of local people. At the end of the review the panels issue a report setting out their findings and recommendations for improvement and present it to Cabinet and other partner agencies. During the reviews, panels will gather information, evidence and opinions from Council officers, external bodies and organisations and members of the public to help them understand the key issues relating to the review topic.
- ⇒ **One-Off Reviews:** Panels often want to have a quick, one-off review of a topic and will ask Council officers to come and speak to them about a particular service or issue before making recommendations to the Cabinet.
- ⇒ **Scrutiny of Council Documents:** Panels also examine key Council documents, such as the budget, the Business Plan and the Best Value Performance Plan.

Scrutiny panels need the help of local people, partners and community groups to make sure that Merton delivers effective services. If you think there is something that scrutiny should look at, or have views on current reviews being carried out by scrutiny, let us know.

For more information, please contact the Scrutiny Team on 020 8545 3390 or by e-mail on [scrutiny@merton.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@merton.gov.uk). Alternatively, visit [www.merton.gov.uk/scrutiny](http://www.merton.gov.uk/scrutiny).

HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES AND OLDER PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY  
PANEL

04 JULY 2012

(Times of meeting) 7.15pm-9.20pm

PRESENT: Councillors: Suzanne Evans (chair), Margaret Brierly, Brenda Fraser, Maurice Groves, Logie Lohendran, Peter McCabe, Dennis Pearce, Greg Udeh.

Co-opted members: Myrtle Agutter, Laura Johnson, Sheila Knight, Barbara Price, Saleem Sheikh

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Linda Kirby (Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health) Adam Wickings, Managing Director, Merton NHS South West London, Sarah Ives, Assistant Director, NHS South West London, Mark Clenaghan, Service Director, Springfield Hospital, Mike Naylor Finance Director, South West London and St Georges NHS Trust, Stella Akintan Scrutiny Officer

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

2 Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence

3 Minutes of the meetings held on the 19<sup>th</sup> April and 31<sup>st</sup> May

Minutes of the previous meetings were agreed

4 Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes

5 GP Funding Review

The Chair asked if Mr Wickings was able to provide a data on the financial impact within individual surgeries as requested at the last Panel meeting. Adam Wickings Managing Director for Sutton and Merton, NHS South West London reported that this information is not available yet as negotiations with individual surgeries are still taking place, so he was unable to put any information into the public domain. He further reported that if surgeries do not accept the current contract on offer they will be given another type of contract.

The Chair reported she was in receipt of an email which highlighted that there are some issues with the Vineyard Hill Surgery negotiations that remain unresolved, namely that NHS Southwest London has not yet provided details of a practice with similar demographics that they can use as a benchmark for the delivery of primary care, and neither has it scrutinized the variation the actual and weighted list size to ensure the Carr Hill Formulae has being correctly applied.

Adam Wickings expressed disappointment that the Surgery did not raise this with him directly as they had held a number of meetings with them, and did not seem

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dissatisfied. He reported that they are still working hard to find these pieces of information. He said he had contacted three GP surgeries with a similar demographic for benchmarking purposes, who originally agreed to share data and management information but then changed their minds. He says he is still trying to find a surgery that is willing to share their management structure and they are looking for specific details around the Carr Hill Formula

He added that he believed the Carr Hill formulae had been correctly applied and that there was no evidence it had not been.

He said he was hopeful that he will be able to provide financial data on GP surgeries across the borough at the next meeting.

The Chair pointed out that information could be given on green paper and therefore be exempt from public disclosure if necessary to protect confidential issues around individual GP contracts.

### RESOLVED

Adam Wickings to provide data on the funds given to individual surgeries under the previous contract as well as the new amount, once this becomes available.

#### 6 Proposal to close Jasmine Ward at Tolworth Hospital

Sarah Ives, Assistant Director, NHS Southwest London gave an overview of the proposals set out in the report. A panel member pointed out that Mencap did not know about these proposals even though they are a key organisation that needs to be consulted with. Sarah Ives said they wished to consult with this scrutiny panel as a first step then would be talking to major stakeholders including Mencap. The communication and engagement plan was circulated to the panel in advance of this meeting.

A panel member asked what the financial implications of the proposals would be. It was reported that this process is not financially driven but based upon reduction in local need which means the service is no longer viable. If there are any savings they will be re-invested into the community teams. Upon request Sarah Ives agreed to provide financial information in relation to current spend and estimated future spend.

A panel member pointed out that this affects one of the most vulnerable client groups and there is concern that these proposals will lead to dilution of expertise as service users will not have direct access to physiatrists. It was also asked what will happen to the psychiatric team that are supporting this group.

A panel member asked if we will be using private mental hospitals. It was reported that we will not be using this provision.

Sarah Ives reported that the psychiatric team will move to the community learning disability team so the expertise will be retained.

Panel members expressed concern that the journey to the Maudsley hospital will be considerably longer for families. Sarah Ives agreed that the travelling distance will be

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longer, their modelling showed that it is eight miles more for residents who live in Raynes Park and 1.8 miles more for those from Pollards Hill. Early intervention and the community teams are reducing the need for this service there has been seven people in two years and numbers are declining.

A letter from Merton Clinical Commissioning Group to Councillor Suzanne Evans was also tabled. This letter confirmed that they are in support of the proposals to re-configure this service.

### RESOLVED

Sarah Ives to provide details of current costs of treatment for people learning disability and mental health issues and estimates of future costs.

#### 7 South West London and St Georges Mental Health Trust Public consultation on application for Foundation Trust Status

Mike Naylor, Finance Director, South West London and St Georges NHS Trust gave an overview of the Foundation Trust proposals

A panel member pointed out that there are currently fifteen members of staff on suspension, what impact is this having on the organisation. It was also asked if training is provided where poor performance is identified.

Mark Clenaghan, Service Director, Springfield Hospital said that the Trust has a commitment to patients, standards are set for staff and if these are not met then appropriate action has to be taken.

A panel member congratulated the Trust for obtaining planning permission to build on the Springfield hospital site, also that staff had done an excellent job in making the best of the current buildings. However there are still on-going concerns that people are discharged when they are not ready and that there has been a reduction in beds.

Mark Clenaghan, Service Director, Springfield Hospital said that the majority of service users are treated in the community but a small number need hospital, the reduction in beds had led to a half a million pounds investment into the in-house treatment service.

A panel member said that a rosy picture is being painted of the current service provision but in reality there is a rationing of services, as a Foundation Trust will there be more money to invest.

Mike Naylor, Finance Director said there will be no extra funds but foundation trust status means that the Trust can keep its surpluses.

A panel member pointed out there have been two road shows in other boroughs but only one in Merton, and that this was in Wimbledon. They suggested the road show also needs to also go to the Fair Green in Mitcham, The finance director agreed to feed this back to the communications team.

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### RESOLVED

Panel comments will be fed into the consultation process.

#### 8 Work programme 2012/13

The Panel agreed the work programme for 2012/13.

Councillor Logie Lohendran will be the Performance and Finance Champion

Councillor Greg Udeh will be the Budget scrutiny lead, although it was agreed that all panel members continue to take a keen interest in this area

Panel members also would like a scrutiny meeting to take place in the local community, therefore it is proposed that as the Better Services Better Value Review of health services in South West London is on the agenda, the next meeting should be held at St Helier hospital. It was noted that this site is not within the borders of the borough of Merton, however since we do not have an acute Trust within our locality a significant number of Merton residents use St Helier Hospital, and that St Helier would be asked to host the meeting.

There will be no change to the co-opted members of the Panel in 2012/13

An in-depth scrutiny meeting will look at the Health and Wellbeing Strategy

The Panel agreed that the following members would participate in the task group on incontinence services:

Councillors: Suzanne Evans (chair), Margaret Brierly, Brenda Fraser, Logie Lohendran, Co-opted members: Myrtle Agutter, Laura Johnson, Sheila Knight, Barbara Price, Saleem Sheikh

#### 9 LINK Merton update

Barbara Price, Chair of Merton LINK provided a briefing on the projects that the LINK is working on.

It was agreed that written updates would be provided in future.

#### 10 Any other Business

The Chair said there were three items of urgent business

The task group report on safeguarding older people was considered by cabinet this week and 13 of the 17 recommendations were accepted. She said she was disappointed that not all had gone through.

Panel were asked to agree to participate in a South West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee looking at financial issues at Croydon PCT. It was agreed that the Chair and Vice Chair participate in this work.

It was agreed that the Mental Health Sub Group is retained given the scale of work taking place in the area and the pressures on the Panel agenda.